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46. (Amended) A method of detecting an inhibitor of binding of primate MAdCAM to a ligand thereof comprising:

- a) combining an agent to be tested with a ligand of primate MAdCAM and a composition comprising isolated and/or recombinant fusion protein comprising primate MAdCAM under conditions suitable for binding of ligand thereto; and
- b) detecting or measuring binding between [primate MAdCAM] said fusion protein and ligand, whereby decreased binding as compared with a suitable control indicates that the agent is an inhibitor.

The subject application is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 08/523,004, filed on September 1, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 08/386,857, filed on February 10, 1995. The amendment of the specification in the Related Applications section is being made to correct the relationship between the referenced applications. As the original paragraph properly incorporated the teachings of both applications by reference, no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 861-6240.

Respectfully submitted,

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